Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

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63
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PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 SR-02 ORM-03

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FM USMISSION USUN NEWYORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2028

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 5605

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AORG, UN, SWEL
SUBJ: SYG'S STATEMENT - UN SYSTEM IN SOUTH ASIAN SUB-CONTINENT

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SYG'S STATEMENT ON EFFORTS OF UN SYSTEM IN SOUTH ASIAN SUB-CONTINENT, TO BE ISSUED NEXT WEEK AS A NOTE VERBALE.

"INTRODUCTION

ON 13 SEPTEMBER 1973, I CIRCULATED A STATEMENT TO ALL MEMBER STATES DESCRIBING THE EFFORTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM TO RELIEVE HUMAN SUFFERING IN THE SOUTH ASIAN SUBCONTINENT. SINCE THAT TIME, SEVERAL IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS HAVE TAKEN PLACE WHICH I WISH TO BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF ALL INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS.

THE VARIOUS HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES WHICH THE UNITED NATIONS IS ENGAGED IN ASSISTING ON THE SUBCONTINENT FALL UNDER FOUR MAIN HEADINGS:

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- CONTINUING RELIEF OPERATIONS IN BANGLADESH;

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

- RELIEF AND RECONSTRUCTION IN PAKISTAN AFTER THE
RECENT DISASTROUS FLOODS
- THE REPATRIATION OF PEOPLE BETWEEN BANGLADESH AND PAKISTAN
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DELHI AGREEMENT OF 28 AUGUST 1973;
1. THE RESETTLEMENT OF THOSE PEOPLE.

WHILE THESE ACTIVITIES, BY THEIR NATURE, FALL WITHIN THE
COMPETENCE OF A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE
UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM--THE UNITED NATIOS RELIEF OPERATION
IN BANGLADESH (UNROB), THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED
NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR (UNDRO) AND THE UNITED
NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR)--THEY ARE
CLEARLY INTERLOCKING AND COMPLEMENTARY. IN MY EARLIER STATEMENT
I THEREFORE EMPHASIZED THE NECESSITY OF SECURING EFFECTIVE
COORDINATION BETWEEN THEM, AND DESCRIBED THE ARRANGEMENTS
I HAD MADE AT UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS FOR THAT
PURPOSE. IT WILL BE OBSERVED FROM THE FOLLOWING
DESCRIPTION THAT THESE ARRANGEMENTS HAVE OPERATED SUCCESSFULLY,
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE UNITED NATION
SYSTEM SHOULD SPEAK WITH "ONE VOICE."

RELIEF OPERATIONS IN BANGLADESH

THE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF OPERATION IN BANGLADESH - THE
LARGEST OF ITS KIND EVER UNDERTAKEN BY THE UNITED NATIONS -
WILL COMPLETE ITS WORK BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, AS PLANNED.
IT WILL HAVE ATTAINED ALL ITS BASIC OBJECTIVES. THE RESPONSE
OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, TOTALLY SOME $US 1,324,000,000
(AND INCLUDING OVER $US 100,000,000 FROM VOLUNTARY AGENCIES
ALONE) HAS BEEN MOST IMPRESSIVE.

FLOOD RELIEF AND RECONSTRUCTION IN PAKISTAN

IN AUGST 1973, THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER
RELIEF COORDINATOR IN GENEVA RESPONDED IMMEDIATELY TO
THE REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
FOLLOWING DISASTROUS FLOODS. WORKING IN CLOSE COOPERATION
WITH THE GOVERNMENT, UNDRO PROVIDED INFORMATION ON SPECIFIC
RELIEF NEEDS TO SOME NINETY DONORS. EMERGENCY FLOOD RELIEF ASSISTANCE

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AMOUNTING TO APPROXIMATELY $US 75,000,000 WAS CONTRIBUTED
BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND PROVIDED INVALUABLE HELP
AT A CRITICAL TIME. DURING NOVEMBER UNDRO, AS PLANNED, HAS
BEEN GRADUALLY PHASING OUT ITS IMMEDIATE RELIEF OPERATION.
SIMULTANEOUSLY ACTION WAS TAKEN TO COORDINATE UNDRO'S
RELIEF WORK WITH THE SUCCEEDING PHASE OF RECONSTRUCTION,
AND ALSO WITH THE RESETTLEMENT WORK FOLLOWING THE REPATRIATION
TO PAKISTAN OF A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE FROM BANGLADESH.

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

THE VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF PAKISTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER GAVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW WITH HIM THE PROBLEMS FACING HIS GOVERNMENT. IN OUR DISCUSSION PARTICULAR ATTENTION WAS PAID BOTH TO THE DISASTROUS EFFECTS OF THE FLOODS WHICH WERE THEN STILL AFFLICTING THE COUNTRY, AND TO THE RE-SETTLEMENT NEEDS.

AS A RESULT OF THESE CONVERSATIONS A JOINT UN/IBRD MISSION WAS ESTABLISHED TO ASSESS THE DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE FLOODS, AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ASSISTANCE WHICH WOULD BE REQUIRED IN REPAIRING THAT DAMAGE. THIS SURVEY WAS INTERLOCKED NOT ONLY WITH THE RELIEF WORK THEN BEING UNDERTAKEN BY UNDRO, AS ALREADY INDICATED, BUT ALSO WITH THE REPATRIATION OPERATION BEING CONDUCTED BY UNHCR.

ON 12 NOVEMBER 1973 THE REPORT OF THIS JOINT UN/IBRE MISSION (WHICH RECEIVED EFFECTIVE COOPERATION FROM ALL THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES CONCERNED) WAS COMPLETED. COPIES OF THE REPORT WERE SUBMITTED IMMEDIATELY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN AND CIRCULATED TO ALL EMBASSIES AND HIGH COMMISSIONS IN ISLAMABAD. AT HEADQUARTERS, COPIES OF THE REPORT ARE BEING CIRCULATED TO ALL INTERESTED DELEGATIONS. THIS REPORT IS ALREADY BEING USED BY CERTAIN GOVERNMENTS IN CONSIDERING HOW BEST THEY CAN PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN. FURTHER COPIES MAY BE OBTAINED FROM SIR ROBERT JACKSON'S OFFICE.

IN ADDITION, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNICEF IS MAKING AN APPEAL FOR SUPPLEMENTARY ASSISTANCE FOR MOTHERS AND CHILDREN AFFECTED BY THE FLOODS. THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES CONCERNED WILL CONTINUE TO CO-OPERATE FULLY WITH THE GOVERNMENT IN THE FLOOD RECONSTRUCTION
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PROGRAMME.

REPATRIATION

AS INDICATED IN MY EARLIER STATEMENT, THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES RESPONDED SWIFTLY TO THE REQUESTS FROM THE GOVERNMENTS OF BANGLADESH AND PAKISTAN FOR ASSISTANCE IN MOVING THE LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE COVERED BY THE DELHI AGREEMENT OF 28 AUGUST 1973. ALREADY SOME 70,000 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN MOVED BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT APPROXIMATELY 130,000 MORE PEOPLE REMAIN TO BE TRANSFERRED BUT THE PRECISE NUMBER REMAINS SUBJECT TO VARIATIONS.

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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PAGE 01 USUN N 05605 02 OF 02 132318Z

63
ACTION IO-14

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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 USUN 5605

THE COST OF THIS OPERATION WAS ESTIMATED AT US $14.3 MILLION. UP TO THE PRESENT TIME THE HIGH COMMISSIONER HAS RECEIVED US $7.2 MILLIONS IN CASH CONTRIBUTIONS. IN ADDITION, CERTAIN GOVERNMENTS HAVE MADE AVAILABLE FACILITIES WHICH HAVE BEEN INTEGRATED INTO THE OVER-ALL OPERATIONAL PLANS OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL WOULD IKE TO EXPRESS HIS GRATITUDE TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED.

IT IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE THAT GOVERNMENTS ENABLE THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO MEET THE FINANCIAL TARGET AND THUS FACILITATE THE EXPEDITIOUS COMPLETION OF THE REPATRIATION OPERATION.

AT THE PRESENT TIME UNROB IS PROVIDING CERTAIN FACILITIES IN DACCA TO UNHCR AND ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING MADE FOR THESE FACILITIES TO BE CONTINUED AFTER UNROB COMPLETES ITS WORK AT THE END OF THE YEAR.

RESETTLEMENT

THE RESETTLEMENT IN PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH OF MANY OF THE PEOPLE TRANSPORTED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF UNHCR
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Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

IS INEVITABLY CREATING DIFFICULT PROBLEMS FOR THE GOVERNMENTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES. EACH AS ASKED FOR MY ASSISTANCE IN MOBILIZING HELP FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO DEAL WITH THESE PROBLEMS. FORTUNATELY IN SOME CASES, SUCH AS MILITARY PERSONNEL AND MEMBERS OF THE CIVIL SERVICE, NO SPECIAL PROBLEM ARISES, BUT HELP IS CEARLY REQUIRED IN DEALING WITH THE LARGE NUMBERS OF "HARDSHIP" CASES WHERE INDIVIDUALS WILL BE STARTING ENTIRELY NEW LIVER VIRTUALLY WITHOUT RESOURCES.

EACH GOVERNMENT HAS PREPARED REPORTS ON THE PROBLEM OF RESETTLEMENT, PAYING PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE "HARDSHIP" CASES. THESE REPORTS ARE BEING CIRCULATED TO EMBASSIES AND HIGH COMMISSIONS IN ISLAMABAD AND DACCA, AND COPIES CAN ALSO BE OBTAINED AT HEADQUARTERS FROM SIR ROBERT JACKSON'S OFFICE. I HOPE GREATLY THAT MEMBER STATES WILL PROVIDE BOTH BANGLADESH AND PAKISTAN WITH EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE IN DEALING WITH THIS MAJOR HUMANITARIAN PROBLEM OF RESETTLEMENT. ASSISTANCE CAN BE PROVIDED EITHER BILATERALLY, OR, IF DESIRED, THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS. IN THE LATTER CASE, APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE TO ENSURE THAT CONTRIBUTIONS ARE USED EFFECTIVELY.

CONCLUSIONS

DESPITE THE PROGRESS MADE, MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE TO RESOLVE THE HUMANITARIAN PROBLEMS ON THE SUBCONTINENT. AS A RESULT OF THE GENEROUS RESPONSE FROM MANY GOVERNMENTS AND VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS, THE FIRST STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO DEAL WITH THE GREAT DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE FLOODS IN PAKISTAN, BUT MUCH MORE HELP IS NEEDED, AND IN SOME RESPECTS NEEDED QUICKLY BECAUSE OF THE WEATHER CONDITIONS, AND THE URGENCY OF THE RECONSTRUCTIN TASK. I KNOW THAT MEMBER STATES WILL GIVE FULL CONSIDERATION TO ALL THESE FACTORS WHEN DETERMINING THEIR POLICIES FOR PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN, AND I TRUST THAT THEY WILL ALSO CONTRIBUTE GENEROUSLY TO THE APPEAL TO BE MADE BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNICEF.

I ALSO EARNESTLY HOPE THAT ALL MEMBER STATES WILL PROVIDE THE UNHCR WITH THE NECESSARY FUNDS AND SERVICES SO THAT THE VITALLY IMPORTANT REPATRIATION OPERATION CAN BE COMPLETED
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SUCCESSFULLY.

THE NEED TO ASSIST BANGLADESH AND PAKISTAN WITH

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

THE VERY DIFFICULT AND EXPENSIVE TASK OF RESETTLEMENT,
WHICH IS THE NATURAL NEXT STEP AFTER REPATRIATION, IS OBVIOUS,
AND I TRUST THAT MEMBER STATES WILL ALSO PRIVDE PRACTICAL
ASSISTANCE IN THIS FIELD.

FINALLY, I WISH TO EMPHASIZE ONCE AGAIN TO ALL MEMBER
STATES THE GREAT POLITICAL AND PRACTICAL IMPORTANCE OF
SEIZING THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CONSOLIDATE IN ALL POSSIBLE
WAYS THE PROGRESS REPRESENTED BY THE DELHI AGREEMENT.
THAT AGREEMENT PROVIDES A REMARKABLE OPPORTUNITY TO SETTLE
SOME OF THE MOST PRESSING AND DIFFICULT PROBLEMS ON THE
SUBCONTINENT. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNITY SHOULD NOT FAIL IN ITS RESPONSIBILITY TO
RESOLVE SUCCESSFULLY THE HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS THAT FROM
SUCH AN IMPORTANT PART OF THAT AGREEMENT."
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Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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